

**Statement by
Lawrence J. Halloran**

**Submitted to the Montgomery County Board of Elections
for consideration at the
September 16, 2019 meeting**

Members of the Board of Elections:

My name is Lawrence Halloran. I reside at 5606 Namakagan Road, Bethesda and am a registered voter in Montgomery County. Since 2016, I have served as the Early Voting Center Manager at the Potomac Community Recreation Center (EV10). My comments focus specifically on the recommended "solution" to limited parking at that facility. *[Slide 36 – 2020 Early Voting Site Selection Presentation]*

It does not solve the problem

The proposed solution is not a real solution at all. At best it is a futile, largely symbolic gesture that would needlessly burden already scarce and overworked election workers while providing little, if any, discernible increase in net parking capacity at Potomac. The demand for parking spaces exceeds supply at EV10 by a huge margin. Voters, people attending Rec. Center programs, day care workers and families, ride share participants, campaign and party volunteers are all competing for limited parking. Against that flood of demand, freeing 18 or 20 spots used by election workers would yield an uncertain, statistically insignificant benefit to the 1500+ voters seeking to park there each day. But it would impose a significant and certain burden on those you expect to operate EV10 efficiently and effectively for twelve to fourteen hours every day.

Didn't work before

The proposal to prohibit election workers from parking on the premises, and shuttling them from some distant lot, has been discussed and tried before. It was briefly put into effect in 2016, and quickly abandoned as ineffective and impractical. It should be likewise rejected by the Board for the 2020 elections.

Shuttling election workers would be logistically difficult, expensive, and dangerous. In 2016, when the shuttle scheme was briefly attempted, there were

often no shiny white vans like those pictured on your slide. Rather, Board employees showed up at 11:30 p.m. with their personal vehicles to convey waiting election workers a mile or more up Falls Road. What if a few, tired of the wait, decided to walk? There are no lights or sidewalks on that portion of Falls Road, which is a narrow, winding two lane thoroughfare with little, at times no, room for pedestrians along the side. Has the Board considered the insurance and liability implications of using private vehicles for county-required transport or for injuries caused as a direct and foreseeable result of the shuttle policy?

Won't work now

Yes, you can condition election worker payment on compliance with such a directive, but enforcement even then would be difficult. EV staffing assignments and payroll lists are compiled late the day before each early voting session. Some workers are assigned that morning, or mid-day. Communicating such site-specific directives to a changing audience has proven difficult in the past. Many people might not get the memo, further diminishing the impact of the recommendation.

Many more parking spaces are taken by campaign and party electioneers than BOE workers. By what authority would the Board prohibit those county residents from full use of a public facility? Who would enforce such a restriction? In the end, I submit enforcement against electioneers would be impossible, rendering the proposal wholly ineffective except as a demeaning, disproportionate burden on a few election workers.

The wrong message

In that regard, this “solution” creates another problem. Its adoption would convey a clear conclusion by the Board that election workers are not critical parts of the voting process, as BOE recruiting materials claim, but minor players whose safe and timely access to the workplace is a secondary consideration. In my view, implementing this recommendation would act as a powerful disincentive to recruiting and retaining qualified election workers at EV10. The Board selected the Potomac site and should have considered parking for election workers as a necessary cost of doing business there. If the Board is not willing to pay that cost, perhaps you should not be doing business there.

The answer

There is a proven, workable alternative. Since 2016, election workers have been told to park on the gravel lot to the right of the main entrance, next to the tennis courts. [See diagram] That lot forms a cul-de-sac off the main circular driveway into the facility. In 2018, a county police officer told me that having the far end of that small lot filled all day made traffic control easier for police and made parking safer for the voting public. It prevented other vehicles from venturing far into a narrow dead-end, clogging traffic as others waited behind them, or attempting to back out through a busy lot into the main traffic circle. I hope the Board considers staying with that safer and more humane approach to parking at the Potomac EV site.



Elections, Board-Of

From: Josephine Jwang <
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2019 4:27 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Cc: gail.greentree@gmail.com
Subject: Early Voting Comments

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

1. Too expensive to staff the centers(train and pay new staff) 2. Too easy for voters to get confused about where to vote and when 3. Not enough Republican judges at so many sites 4. Too wasteful to set up the machines, use the centers for a few voters.

Joséphine Wang

LD 17

MoCo Republican Central Committee

Sent from my iPhone

Mr. President and members of the Montgomery County Board of Elections,

My name is Daniel Koroma, and I am a long-time resident of White Oak. Few years ago, I brought to light the voting challenges residents of White Oak were facing as a result of not having an early voting site in our neighborhood. Two of the major challenges we face are: (1) Access to transportation during early voting weekends and (2) long lines at the Silver Spring Civic Building. The Silver Spring Civic Building is 4.5 miles away from White Oak, but it is one of the County's busiest early voting sites. Marilyn Praisner Community Rec Center is 5.6 miles from White Oak, but there are no buses on weekends. Recent elections data now shows that there is an increase voter wait time at both Praisner and the Civic Building during election day. Therefore, adding the White Oak Rec Center as an early voting site would help reduce voter wait time in both places.

Your suggestion to add a 12th early voting site for the 2020 elections demonstrates your commitment to making voting easy for all citizens of Montgomery County. Your consideration of the White Oak Rec Center based on past elections data, is very commendable. The case for early voting is a simple one because providing citizens with more options to vote, makes it easier for us to vote. No one likes to wait on long lines on election day. Early voting also helps citizens to plan, prepare and pick a time that is more convenient for us to vote. Voting is a family tradition in my household. Early voting made it possible for me and my wife to drive other people to the polls during early voting weekends.

I want to commend all of you for your considerations, and I ask that you vote unanimously to make White Oak Rec Center the 12th early voting site. Imagine the message you will send to other Counties and States Board of Elections, who are reducing precinct locations, moving early voting locations far away from minority neighborhoods, and cutting days of their total early voting days in order to target and depress Black voter turnout.

You are saying to them that in Montgomery County, voting is not a partisan issue.

Thank you.

Moovit: Your Public Transit Guide x +

moovitapp.com/?from=White%20Oak%20Shopping%20Center%20%26%20Rear%20of%20Sears%20Building&to=Silver%20Spring%20Civic...

moovit Washington, DC-Baltimore

DIRECTIONS LINES ALERTS

Start White Oak Shoppi... x ↑↓

End Silver Spring Civic Build... x


Set your departure time 10:00 AM Sat 14/9 Filters

Suggested Routes

26 MIN **Z6 / Z8** > **7**
Leaves from Lockwood Dr & White Oak S/C
10:09 AM - 10:35 AM

49 MIN **K6** > **16**
Leaves from White Oak Shopping Center

Scan QR Code



Moovit: Your Public Transit Guide x +

moovitapp.com/?from=White%20Oak%20Shopping%20Center%20%26%20Rear%20of%20Sears%20Building&to=Marilyn%20J.%20Praisner...

moovit Washington, DC-Baltimore

DIRECTIONS LINES ALERTS

Start White Oak Shoppi... x ↑↓

End Marilyn J. Praisner Co... x

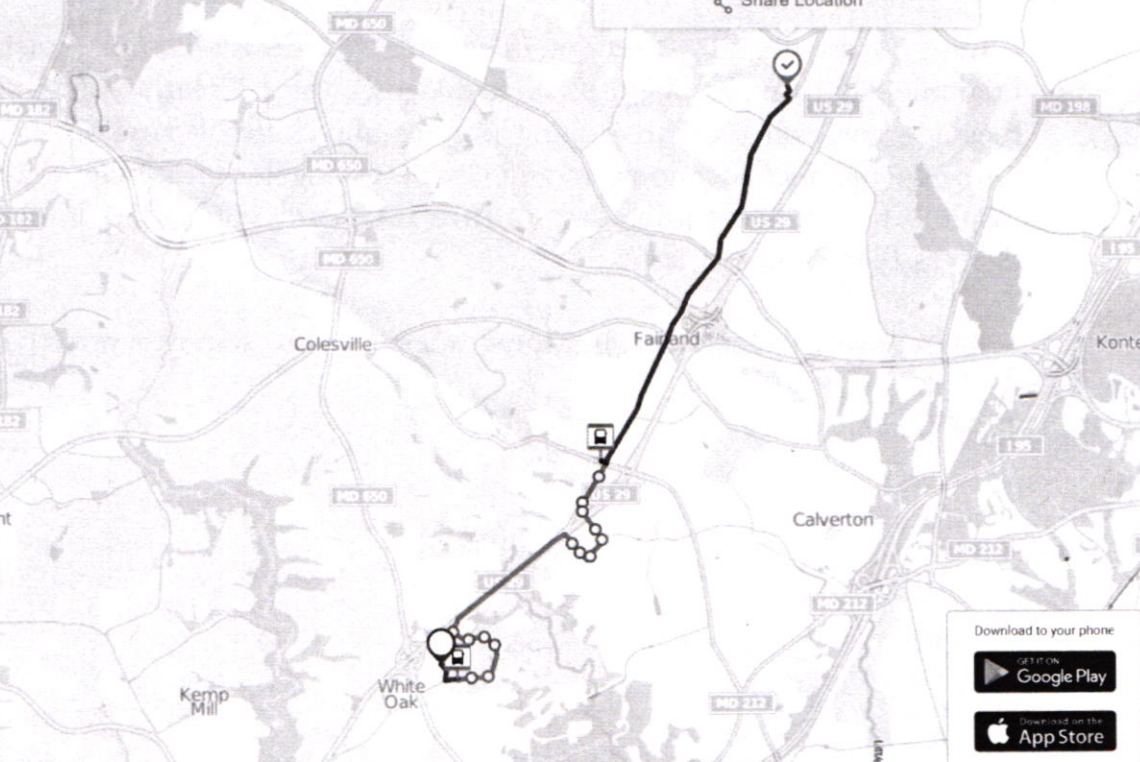
Set your departure time 10:00 AM Sat 14/9 Filters

Suggested Routes

10 MIN **Z8** > **31**
Leaves in 40 min from Lockwood Dr & #11421
10:26 AM - 11:15 AM

2 MIN **5** > **10** > **65**
Leaves from Lockwood Dr & @11431

QR Code



Testimony of Diana Conway, President, Women's Democratic Club of Montgomery County MD

Before the Montgomery County Board of Elections, 9-16-19

Dear Chairman Shalleck and Members of the Board of Elections,

On behalf of the nearly 700 members of the Women's Democratic Club of Montgomery County I am here to ask you to open the White Oak Rec Center site as our county's 12th Early Voting location.

The record from last November is clear: unacceptably long lines and many voters just leaving in frustration ---without having voted. This Board cannot allow that to happen again. The White Oak site is indispensable, especially given the expected increase in turnout for this cycle, and the low rate of car-ownership in the area of the proposed site. It is incumbent on this body to give voters a way to exercise their franchise, without creating problems for handicapped or disabled voters, for parents who need to pick up from child-care, or for workers on a clock.

Last November saw long lines along the U.S. 29 and New Hampshire Avenue corridors with people waiting an hour, two hours, and more. And leaving without voting. This Board has an obligation to meet the demand from our voters. I urge you to take up the charge: Open the White Oak site.

Thank you for considering the views of the Women's Democratic Club membership.

Diana Conway

Diana E. Conway
President
Women's Democratic Club
www.womensdemocraticclub.org
dconway@erols.com
c: 240-997-0404

September 16, 2019

Dear Board or Elections Members:

I come before you asking you to consider voting NO on a new General Election site. I am a big supporter of the slogan: "Every Vote Counts" and in this marvelous Constitution grant us that gift.

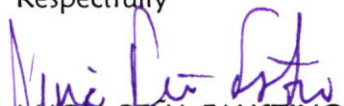
But I am also fiscal conservative and I am worry about expending over \$125,000 to open a site for the general Election.

I could understand if a site was propose for primaries where so much is a stake because of the numerous candidates running in the Democratic ticket, nevertheless One Hundred and Twenty Five Thousand dollars is not short change. If anything why not have more voting booths at strategic places. We must pay attention to our Bond ratings, we just got a "warning" exactly for not using our tax payer's money in a more responsible way. Losing our A+ Bond rating would mean higher interest rates, that probably would be transfer to us as more taxes.

If money was available, I could thing of a myriad of needs that we could cover, just think in our homeless, hot lunches, Mana Food and on and on.

So please consider vote NO a a new site.

Respectfully



MARIA PEÑA FAUSTINO

Elections, Board-Of

From: Barbara Sanders <bsanderslwv@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Cc: LWVMC; Barbara Sanders
Subject: Early Voting Center comments: League of Women Voters of Montgomery County

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Chairman Shalleck and Members of the Board of Elections,

As the Montgomery County League of Women Voters liaison to the Board of Elections, I express the League's thanks to the Board for opening the early voting center selection process to public comments and providing a detailed analysis of the County sites that meet the state's criteria.

Reuse of Current Sites. The League is supportive of using all eleven previously-utilized early voting centers, including the return to the rebuilt Wheaton Community Recreation Center. Continued use of the same centers is always a preference to avoid voter confusion. If the County Council continues its commitment to support the full complement of State-approved centers, we encourage the Board to add another center to provide maximum access to secure voting by the largest number of voters.

Criteria for Selection. The Montgomery County LWV recognizes the Board of Elections' siting of the current early voting centers greatly exceeds the state's 80% geographic goal by covering over 98% of the county's registered voters within five miles of one of the eleven centers. Nonetheless, there are locations that are near the edge or outside of those five mile radii.

The League of Women Voters has no position on specific early voting center sites, but we encourage the Board to think about the following issues when choosing an additional site:

- Does it better serve populations that have shown a loyalty to voting by traveling further distances to current early voting centers?
- Does it offer better access to populations that have endured longer waits on election day at local precincts?
- Does it have better transit access throughout the day and weekend, and not just at weekday rush hours?
- Does it serve a commuter route, a job center, a large daytime population center and/or a community site frequented on weekends, especially for populations that find it hard to use Election Day precincts?
- Does it meet the County's goal of increasing racial equity and social justice for our diverse racial and socioeconomic population?

As participants in the polling place evaluation process, the Montgomery County LWV also has a suggestion for any current or future early voting centers that also serve as precincts on Election Day – in sample ballots and election notices, we encourage the Board to stress the difference between the use of early voting centers by any County voter vs. the local neighborhood precinct boundaries for Election Day voting. Also, having official maps posted outside on Election Day and/or designated poll workers or Future Vote students moving along any voter lines with computers or paper maps of the local precinct may encourage people to go to their local precinct and avoid standing in lines and then taking more time to use a provisional ballot.

Again, thank you for including public comments in your consideration of the 2020 early voting centers.

Sincerely,
Barbara Marsh Sanders,
Liaison to the Montgomery County Board of Elections

MARC KORMAN
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ALFRED C. CARR, JR.
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION

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JHEANELLE WILKINS

September 16, 2019

Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N. Frederick Ave., Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

To Whom It May Concern:

I write today as Chair of the 24-member Montgomery County Delegation in the Maryland House of Delegates. We all share a strong desire to ensure that all residents in Montgomery County are entitled to access to early voting.

Early voting has become increasingly popular since first being offered in 2010. In 2018, Montgomery County had 11 early voting centers around the County, up from the original five centers in 2010. According to the results on your website, approximately 115,000 early voting ballots were cast in the 2018 gubernatorial general election, up from approximately 35,000 in the 2014 gubernatorial general election. With a presidential election approaching, it is clear that a critical need exists in Montgomery County for an additional early voting polling site.

In 2019, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation (Chapter 539) to authorize an additional early voting center in Montgomery County. We now ask that you exercise this authority and establish an additional site. Moreover, we believe White Oak is the best location for a new site in order to ease over-crowding at nearby existing early voting sites.

We recognize that an additional site will require the support of the local government. We will share this letter with the Montgomery County Council to let them know that we support an additional site. We know that you share the view that every voter in Montgomery County should be able to cast a vote. This can be accomplished by improving access to the early voting polling sites. Therefore, we hope that you will vote today to ensure that every voter in

Montgomery County be given an opportunity to cast a vote during the early voting period with an additional early voting polling site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Korman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Delegate Marc Korman
Chair, Montgomery County House Delegation

CC: Montgomery County Council



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

September 16, 2019

Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N. Frederick Ave, Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Dear Chair Shalleck:

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. Easy access to voting, including convenient locations and hours, is essential to ensuring the greatest participation and fairest elections possible. Many pundits are expecting record election turnout next year, which is why we are writing to urge the County Board of Elections add a 12th early-voting site for the 2020 general election in White Oak.

Many of the polling places with the longest wait times for voters last November were along the [U.S. 29 and New Hampshire Avenue corridors](#). *The Washington Post* reported that some voters waited well over an hour, some up to two hours, to vote at the Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center in Burtonsville. Some people left before voting, including seniors and disabled individuals who could not stand in line that long, as well as parents and caregivers who had to leave to pick up their kids or run errands.

Nationally, the average wait time to vote in 2016 was 8 minutes, according to an MIT [study](#). The Presidential Commission on Election Administration has committed to a national goal to limit the wait times for voting to no more than 30 minutes. Waiting an hour, or even more, to vote is simply unacceptable.

That's why we believe that the White Oak Recreation Center — which is more convenient to East County voters than the Burtonsville or Silver Spring early-voting sites — should be designated as the county's 12th early-voting site for the upcoming General election. Having early voting at White Oak will relieve pressure, and reduce the long lines, at nearby polling places on Election Day.

Having closer and more convenient early-voting centers — as well as early-voting centers that are sited on major transit corridors like U.S. 29 — is especially important in areas with low car ownership and high transit dependency like East County, where around 35 percent of adults do not own a car despite limited transit availability in that area.

Voting is our precious and hard-won right and responsibility as Americans. Let's make it as easy as possible.

Sincerely,

Nancy Navarro, Council President

Sidney Katz, Council Vice-President

Tom Hucker, Councilmember District 5

Gabe Albornoz, At-Large Councilmember

Evan Glass, At-Large Councilmember

Will Jawando, At-Large Councilmember

Hans Riemer, At-Large Councilmember



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Marc Elrich
County Executive

September 16, 2019

Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N. Frederick Ave, Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Dear Chair Shalleck:

Turnout is expected to be high for the 2020 general election, therefore, I support adding a 12th early voting site for the general election. This additional convenient voting opportunity will hopefully increase turnout and help reduce lines on election day which was a problem in 2018.

I have concerns about the cost and additional benefit of implementing another early voting site for the primary election in this fiscal year. As you know, Maryland's primary is on the back end of the primary calendar. If the presidential nominations are already determined by the time of our primary, turnout might be very low for the whole primary as there are no other competitive races in our county.

Thank you for your role in making our democracy work.

Sincerely,

Elections, Board-Of

From: Diane Kupelian <
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2019 3:18 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Early voting in Montgomery County

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I am extremely happy with the early voting arrangements in Montgomery County, and I hope they continue as they are currently arranged.

My family votes early at the site that used to be Leland Jr. High School (yes, I'm an old timer!) I usually vote "absentee in person" at the main office.

Thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely, Diane Kupelian

Elections, Board-Of

From: David Rasmussen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2019 3:51 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Early Voting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Extend it as much as possible. We all want to vote, but life intervenes. As many people should vote and if early voting is available, then do it!

--

David Rasmussen
DRPropconsult@gmail.com
202.699.0634

Elections, Board-Of

From: Barbara Wilcox <
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2019 9:16 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Early voting centers

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Please keep the Praisner center open for early voting. Parking is easy and it has worked well for the last several elections.

Barbara Wilcox

Elections, Board-Of

From: Patti Twigg <|
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2019 2:29 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: early voting centers

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi! I think that early voting is the best thing since sliced bread. I vote at the Marilyn Praisner Community Center, and it is so convenient, easy and right in the east county community. Please continue this wonderful service and keep the Praisner Center on your list! Thanks!

Patti Twigg

Silver Spring, MD 20905

Elections, Board-Of

From: dkgriffin
Sent: Thursday, August 08, 2019 10:42 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Early Voting Sites

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Please add an early voting site in North Potomac.

Elections, Board-Of

From: flowerandbr
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2019 8:06 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of

Categories: Early Voting Comments

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Early voting is not a good idea, at any site.

Elections, Board-Of

From: Shana Davis-Cook
Sent: Monday, September 02, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Support for an Early Voting Site: White Oak Recreation Center

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Members of the Montgomery County Board of Elections,

I fully support adding the White Oak Recreation Center as an early voting site ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

The long lines at the early voting site at the Praisner Community Recreation Center in 2018 are evidence of the need for an additional early voting site in the east county. Additionally, the east county consists of many lower-income families who do not have vehicles and may work in jobs where they are unable to take time off of work on election day to vote. Establishing an early voting site at the White Oak Recreation Center will increase the ability for these residents to vote at a location and in a time frame that is more convenient and ensures their vote is counted.

Please establish an early voting site at the White Oak Recreation Center.

Sincerely,

Shana Davis-Cook
Resident of the Hillandale Community in Silver Spring
Member of the Friends of White Oak Board

Elections, Board-Of

From: Kemi Adetola <k
Sent: Monday, September 02, 2019 6:15 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: I support early voting site at the White Oak Community Recreation Center in 2020

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I support early voting site at the White Oak Community Recreation Center in 2020

Sent from my iPhone

Elections, Board-Of

From: Yatta Fawundu <
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2019 5:05 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: add a 12th early voting site for the 2020 elections at White Oak

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

please do thanks,

Elections, Board-Of

From: Frederick D. Wallace IV,
Sent: Sunday, September 08, 2019 10:04 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Letter Regarding 2020 Early Voting Sites
Attachments: Praisner Letter.doc

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To the Members of the Montgomery County Board of Elections,

The Board has requested feedback from the community pertaining to early voting sites for the upcoming 2020 elections. Please accept from the congregation of Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a letter in support of keeping the Marilyn J. Praisner Recreation Center an early voting site, and a request to consider the White Oak Community Recreation Center as a new early voting site.

Sincerely,

Frederick Wallace



ALLEN CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH

Loving God, Loving Family, Loving People, Loving Community
Rev. Alan M. Gould, Sr., Pastor

Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N. Frederick Ave, Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Dear Members of the Montgomery County Board of Elections,

The Montgomery County Board of Elections (Board) has solicited community input pertaining to the selection of early voting centers for the upcoming 2020 Primary and General Elections. As a matter of record, the Board has listed the Marilyn J. Praisner Recreation Center, located at 14906 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866, as a candidate to remain an early voting center and the White Oak Community Recreation Center, located at 1700 April Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904, as a possible new early voting center. We, the members of Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, strongly support the retention of the Praisner Center as an early voting center, and we urge the Board to strongly consider the White Oak Center as an additional early voting center for East County residents.

The state of Maryland has outlined the following criteria for determining early voting centers: access, transportation, infrastructure, and accommodation. The Praisner Center, as outlined below, comfortably conforms and in some cases, exceeds the minimum standards the State has implemented.

- **Access:** The Praisner Center is a county building, thus, it is open to the general public at large. The location of this center also meets the population density requirement of having eighty (80) percent of the registered voters living within five miles.
- **Transportation:** The Praisner Center is located on Old Columbia Pike, which is not far from the major thoroughfares of Columbia Pike/ U.S. 29 and Spencerville Road/U.S. 198. Moreover, there are two Metrobus routes which serve this center, the Z6 and Z7 buses. Parking at this center is plentiful, as there are over 151 parking spots as well as a decent amount of overflow parking.
- **Infrastructure:** The Praisner Center has the adequate wireless connectivity, telephone service, and heating and air conditioning needed to remain an early voting center. Furthermore, it has been proposed that the gym (over 6,000 square feet) at the Praisner Center be utilized instead of the social hall (~3,000 square feet), for it will accommodate more people and equipment.
- **Accommodation:** The Praisner Center has suitable space to accommodate equipment, electioneering, and voter flow. Additionally, this center meets the requirements for voters with disabilities and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. There is also sufficient space to accommodate voters in line, especially to shelter voters from inclement weather.



2518 Fairland Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 Phone (301) 879-9232 Fax (301) 879-2731
E-mail: allenchapelmd@verizon.net Web Site: www.allenchapelame.org



ALLEN CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH

Loving God, Loving Family, Loving People, Loving Community
Rev. Alan M. Gould, Sr., Pastor

Page 2

In line with the foregoing information, the Board has mentioned many times that there is a “consistency preference” for early voting centers, for it takes time to build voter awareness and to habituate voters to using these centers. Based on recent turnout data, this center has been consistently a popular site for early voters. In the 2014 General Election early voting cycle, 4,987 people used the Praisner Center. This number has seen exponential growth, for in the 2018 General Election early voting cycle, 10,286 early voters used the Praisner Center, producing an increase of 106 percent. There is no question this Center has been acknowledged and identified as an effective early voting center by the residents of Montgomery County, and a departure of using this Center would lead to confusion, misunderstanding, and the loss of potential voters.

The Board has indicated that there is a possibility for an additional early voting center to be created for the 2020 election cycle. As such, we also urge the Board to consider the White Oak Community Recreation Center as a potential early voting site. This center is located in a growing area off of Route 29, in between downtown Silver Spring and Burtonsville, where there is ample space for early voting operations (over 4,851 square feet), plentiful parking, served reliably by mass transit, and is able accommodate voters and those with disabilities. Additionally, with the genesis of the White Oak Science Gateway community, currently emerging within the White Oak area, now is the time to establish an early voting center within this area for public recognition and awareness.

Finally, the primary goal for of selecting early voting centers is to choose those centers which have the best possible reach to all of the citizens of Montgomery County. Therefore, we feel the Board is correct in proposing to keep the Marilyn J. Praisner Recreation Center as an early voting center and we urge the Board to strongly consider the creation of an early voting center at the White Oak Community Recreation Center.

Yours truly,

The Members of Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church
2518 Fairland Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904



Elections, Board-Of

From: Kim Jones <
Sent: Sunday, September 08, 2019 9:45 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Additional Early Voting Site in 2020

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear members of the Montgomery County Board of Elections,

I am a resident of Montgomery County, and live in the eastern part of Silver Spring, between White Oak and Burtonsville. I have never missed voting in elections, and appreciate Montgomery County's plans over the past 10 years to make early voting available and to accommodate all voters. During the last election presidential election, in 2016, and again in the mid-term election of 2018, my husband, son and I, made several attempts to vote early at the Praisner Center. We experienced long lines and finally had to simply wait on an evening when we arrived after work. My son, went to the County Executive's office to vote because it was closer to university for him.

As the Board of Elections reviews the voting locations and process for the 2020 election, I encourage you to consider another voting site in the White Oak area that can accommodate residents from White Oak and surrounding areas, or those who work in the area like FDA, Adventist, and other science gateway employees that want to vote before returning to their homes in other parts of the county. While the wait and the standing isn't a problem for me or my family, I noticed elderly or mildly disabled citizens that were challenged by the lines at Praisner. In addition, because of the number of people, it was extremely warm and could have been a fire hazard.

With ample parking and space, an option for another early voting site could be the White Oak Community Recreation Center. The Election Board recommendations for voting sites isn't an easy job, but thank you for your service. Please consider adding an east county voting site for the 2020 election as we are a very concentrated community, with a number of people living in apartments and senior buildings. The additional voting site will be a great service to us all and ensure those with transportation or ability challenges are not discouraged from participating in the voting process.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you need more information.

Sincerely,
Kim Jones
Cross Creek Neighborhood resident
301-792-2894
kdcjones1@gmail.com

Elections, Board-Of

From: Judy Rumerman ·
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 5:52 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: early voting sites

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Please consider adding an early voting site in the White Oak area, either at Jackson Road Elementary School, White Oak Middle School, or the Recreation Center off of Rt. 29 in White Oak. Both the Praisner Center and downtown Silver Spring are more than 15 minutes away from White Oak voters.

Judith Rumerman

Silver Spring, MD 20904

Elections, Board-Of

From: Kim and Dan Davies >
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 6:05 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Early voting locations

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good Morning.

I am a Provisional Election Judge, serving at Kingsview Middle School(02-02). My husband, a Chief Judge, and I vote early at the Kingsview Recreation Center.

These two buildings are located so close to each other that they share bi-fold doors in the gym.

On Election Day, we consistently get voters who swear they have voted at Kingsview for years and they get aggravated when told they aren't in their home precinct and will need to vote Provisionally or go to their home precinct. (Seventy-seven Provisional voters, on Election Day, in each of the last two elections.) We think they are confusing the two voting locations. They also don't appear to recognize that their home precinct is noted on their sample ballot, near their name and address.

Perhaps relocating Early Voting from the Rec Center would help ease this voter frustration.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Davies

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Elections, Board-Of

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 12:16 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: EV location

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello: glad that the Wheaton Rec. Ctr-ga ave is completed,
and that it will be used as EV center next year,
marina (EV and regular voting judge)

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Elections, Board-Of

From: Phillip Wiggins >
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 5:45 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Early Voting Center Comments

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

White Oak Recreation Center should be consider as another site for early voting center.

Thanks
Millie West-Wiggins

Elections, Board-Of

From: Sally Pessin
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 9:57 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Written comment enclosed

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Please do NOT waste our tax dollars on a 12th site.

If you feel compelled to spend the money, then PLEASE place more machines in the locations that have experienced long wait times.

Sally Pessin, Esq., CRPC®
Chartered Retirement Planning CounselorSM
Financial Wellness and Coaching
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Elections, Board-Of

From: mary sue miranda ·
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 10:59 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Early voting site

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Board:

I am opposed to the proposal to spend another \$120,000 of tax dollars to open a 12th early voting site. I believe the number of current sites is adequate and if you wish to streamline the process, ramp up those existing sites that get the most traffic by providing additional voting machines. I voted early at the Silver Spring center and was in and out in under 20 mins. No waiting.

Respectfully,

Mary Sue Miranda
20910

Elections, Board-Of

From: Michael Ravnitzky
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 5:37 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: early voting site in White Oak

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Please place the 12th early voting site for the County in White Oak. My wife Victoria and thousands of her colleagues work at a White Oak campus and this would greatly improve their ability to vote early.

Sincerely,

Michael Ravnitzky

Silver Spring, MD 20902

Elections, Board-Of

From: Leflor Guindo
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 7:11 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Cc: Daniel Koroma; salcore@googlegroups.com
Subject: Yes, we support adding a 12th early voting site at the White Oak Community Recreation Center. Thank you!

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

LeDit and Florence Guindo
Silver Spring, MD 20902
USA

Elections, Board-Of

From: Fatmata Barrie <
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 7:45 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: We need early voting in White Oak!

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear BOE,

This is my support that White Oak Rec Center be the 12th early voting site. It would be extremely beneficial for our community because there is no reliable public transit on the week-ends and people would usually have to trek to downtown Silver Spring or Praisner.

Best,

Fatmata Barrie, Esq.

Elections, Board-Of

From: Betsey Katiti
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 8:49 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: EARLY VOTING AT WHITE OAK COMM REC CENTER

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Montgomery County Board of Elections,

I support adding a 12th early voting site at the White Oak Community Recreation Center.

Thank you.

Betsey Katiti

Elections, Board-Of

From: Sandy Tuttle · n>
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 9:36 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To: the members of the Montgomery County Board of Elections
Fr: Sandy Tuttle, Resident of Montgomery County
Re: 12th Early Voting Site for the 2020 elections
Date: September 15, 2019

I am writing in opposition to any proposal to place an additional early voting site for the 2020 election. This is unnecessary and a waste of limited taxpayer dollars. These sites are not inexpensive to run. In a county where we have seen our county council raise our taxes 8.9 percent in 2016 and then go on to run a deficit in 2017, I think it is ill-advised to have yet a 12th early voting site.

Elections, Board-Of

From: Lori Jaffe ·
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 11:45 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Additional Voting Site Not Needed

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Montgomery County Board of Elections,

Please do not spend money on an additional voting site. Montgomery County needs to stop wasting money. If the lines are long at some voting places, bring in additional machines for those places that need them.

Thank you,
Lorraine Jaffe
Bethesda

Elections, Board-Of

From: sylvia diss
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 10:42 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: White Oak Center for Early Voting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

State law allows the Montgomery County Board of Elections to add a 12th early voting site for the 2020 presidential election. Having a 12th site could greatly improve participation, especially with many election experts predicting record turnout in next year's election.

It is not right that voters have waited over an hour, even two, to vote at the Praisner Center in Burtonsville. Seniors and disabled people, especially, are at a real disadvantage.

Many of the polling places with the longest wait times for voters last November were along the U.S. 29 and New Hampshire Avenue corridors. I strongly feel that the White Oak Recreation Center — which is more convenient to East County voters than the Burtonsville or Silver Spring early-voting sites — should be designated as the county's 12th early-voting site. Having early voting at White Oak will relieve pressure, and reduce the long lines, at nearby polling places on Election Day.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sylvia Diss

Elections, Board-Of

From: Thomas Helfand
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 6:57 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Early voting site

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

We support using The White Oak Recreation Center as an early voting location.

Thank you .

Jean Lytle-Helfand
Thomas Helfand

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Elections, Board-Of

From: CRYSTAL LEE <
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 8:56 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: New Site Recommendation for Early Voting - White Oak Community Recreation Center

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am requesting that you consider the White Oak Community Recreation Center as a new Early Voting location. The location can be access by bus routes 10, Z6 and Z8. The site can also be accessed from Stewart Lane, Rt 20 and Rt 650. Additionally, there are 131 parking spaces and the square footage is 4,851.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Crystal Lee

Silver Spring, MD 20905

Elections, Board-Of

From: Linda Foley
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 8:42 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: 12th Early Voting site

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Friends,

Montgomery County needs a 12th Early Voting site in White Oak. Too many voters in the White Oak area are disenfranchised because they cannot easily cast their votes during Maryland's early-voting process.

Please designate another Early Voting site in White Oak.

Thank you,
Linda Foley
D15 Representative, Mont. County Democratic Central Committee

Elections, Board-Of

From: Tyler Christensen
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 8:47 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: please consider adding another early voting center at White Oak

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello election board,

I live near downtown Silver Spring, and I have very much appreciated the convenience of having an early-voting option close to my house. I urge you to open as many early voting centers as legally allowed, and specifically to add another location in the Colesville Road corridor.

According to an MIT study, the average wait time nationally to vote in 2016 was 8 minutes. The Presidential Commission on Election Administration has committed to a national goal to limit the wait times for voting to no more than 30 minutes. Waiting an hour, or even more, to vote is simply unacceptable.

That's why the White Oak Recreation Center — which is more convenient to East County voters than the Burtonsville or Silver Spring early-voting sites — should be designated as the county's 12th early-voting site. Having early voting at White Oak will relieve pressure, and reduce the long lines, at nearby polling places on Election Day.

Having closer and more convenient early voting centers - as well as early voting centers that are sited on major transit corridors like US-29 - is especially important in areas with low car ownership and high transit dependency like East County, where around 35% of adults do not own a car despite limited transit availability in that area.

I urge you to designate the White Oak Rec Center to be an early-voting site in the next election. Voting is our precious and hard-won right and responsibility as Americans. Let's make it as easy as possible.

Thanks for your consideration,

Tyler Christenen

Elections, Board-Of

From: Wayne Lee
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 10:56 AM
To: CRYSTAL LEE; Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Re: Fwd: New Site Recommendation for Early Voting - White Oak Community Recreation Center

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

On September 16, 2019 at 10:47 AM CRYSTAL LEE <cryslee@comcast.net> wrote:
Please designate White Oak Community Recreation Center as a early voting location.

----- Original Message -----

From: CRYSTAL LEE
To: elections@montgomerycountymd.gov
Date: September 16, 2019 at 2:56 PM
Subject: New Site Recommendation for Early Voting - White Oak Community Recreation Center

To Whom It May Concern:

I am requesting that you consider the White Oak Community Recreation Center as a new Early Voting location. The location can be access by bus routes 10, Z6 and Z8. The site can also be accessed from Stewart Lane, Rt 20 and Rt 650. Additionally, there are 131 parking spaces and the square footage is 4,851.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Crystal Lee

Silver Spring, MD 20905

Elections, Board-Of

From: Bernard Salamon
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 8:06 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: early voting location

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To the Board of elections:

I am adamantly opposed to early voting and reject any additions to the existing early voting locations. The process of early voting destroys the discipline of voting and unfortunately influences voting outcomes. Please reject any proposals to increase or improve existing early voting locations.

Respectfully,

Bernard Salamon

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Elections, Board-Of

From: Martha A. Morris
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 9:34 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: White Oak Community Recreation Center - early voting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I am in favor of adding the above location as an early voting site. More and more people are voting early, and there will be record turnout in 2020.

Thank you!

Martha Morris

Rockville
(

Elections, Board-Of

From: B Harpster
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 8:46 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Early voting sites

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear public servants,

Thank you for your work on our behalf.

I think it is very important for voting centers to be where they are accessible by many people. The Marilyn Praisner site seemed too far from many, and inadequate for the numbers. Please consider helping our citizens be able to get to the polls.

Anne Harpster

Silver Spring 20904

Elections, Board-Of

From: Ashley Grimes
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 8:49 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Support for White Oak Early Voting Location

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

I am emailing to voice my support in adding an early voting location at the White Oak community center. Given the long lines that occurred at the Praisner CRC on election day in 2018 and since 2020 is a presidential election year, the lines could be even longer. Surely, adding an early voting site at the White Oak Community Recreation Center in 2020 will help mitigate this problem. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ashley Grimes

Whitehall Square Homeowners Association Board Member